

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/044,258	KOMOBUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner LUONG T. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Terminal Disclaimer and Amendment filed on 5/31/2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-15, 17-18 (renumbered as 1-9, respectively).
3.  The drawings filed on 10 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/261,841.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.



AUNG MOE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION*****Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 9-15, 17-18 are allowable over the prior art of the record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 9 and 11, the prior art of the record fails to show or suggest a method for driving a solid state image pickup device comprising the steps of setting only a single first signal charging period and only a single second signal charging period for each one of the plurality of unit pixel means, where the single second signal charging period occurs after the single first signal charging period and is shorter than the single first signal charging period; adding the second signal charge of the first unit pixel means to the second signal charge of the second unit pixel means for output by the CCD electric charge transfer means.

Claim 10 is allowable for the reason given respect to claim 9.

Claim 12 is allowable for the reason given respect to claim 11.

Regarding claim 13, the prior art of the record fails to show or suggest a solid state image pickup device comprising means for setting a first signal charging period and a second signal charging period for each one of the plurality of unit pixel means, where the second signal charging period occurs after the first signal charging period and is shorter than the single first signal charging period; means for adding signal charges of the two unit pixel means from the second charging periods.

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Regarding claim 14, the prior art of the record fails to show or suggest a method for driving a solid state image pickup device comprising the steps of setting a first signal charging period and a second signal charging period for each one of the plurality of unit pixel means, where the second signal charging period is shorter than the single first signal charging period and a first signal charge is produced during the first signal charging period and a second signal charge is produced during the second signal charging period; wherein the second signal charges of pairs of unit pixel means which are vertically adjacent are added.

Claim 15, 17-18 are allowable for the reason given respect to claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN LN  
06/10/05



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